ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS/MATERIALS

Accompanying this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment are the following documents and/or materials: **(1)** an Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b); **(2)** Form PTO-1449; and **(3)** copies of 42 cited references.

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 18-20, 24, 25, 27, 30-32, 46 and 48 without prejudice and disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 33, 41, 47 and 49 as follows.

B1

1. (Amended) A polynucleotide vaccine composition comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes an influenza virus M2 antigen, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is not present in a recombinant viral vector and is coated onto a core carrier particle.

B2

33. (Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein the nucleic acid sequence is administered to the subject using a particle-mediated delivery technique.

B3

41. (Amended) A method for using an influenza virus M2 antigen to induce an immune response in a subject, said method comprising:

(a) providing a composition comprising an expression cassette containing a nucleic acid sequence encoding the M2 antigen operatively linked to control sequences that direct expression of the M2 antigen when introduced into tissue of the subject, wherein said expression cassette is not present in a recombinant viral vector and is coated onto a core carrier particle; and

B3 cont

(b) administering the expression cassette to tissue of the subject in an amount sufficient such that the M2 antigen is expressed to induce the immune response.

47. (Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein the plasmid vector is administered to the subject using a particle-mediated delivery technique.

B4

49. (Amended) A method of eliciting a protective immune response in a subject, said method comprising transfecting cells of the subject with a polynucleotide encoding an influenza virus M2 antigen, wherein said transfecting is carried out under conditions that permit expression of said antigen within the subject, said polynucleotide is not present in a recombinant viral vector and is coated onto a core carrier particle, and said expression is sufficient to elicit a protective immune response against an influenza virus.

B5